

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 181010Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4480

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, PO

SUBJ: ALI MURTOPO ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: A) JAKARTA 6958 B) JAKARTA 9984 C) JAKARTA 11268

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN OFFICIAL ANTARA NEWS BULLETIN SEPT 18, MAJ GEN. ALI MURTOPO, DEPUTY CHIEF OF GOI INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING BOARD (BAKIN), TOLD JOURNALISTS SEPT 17 THAT PORTUGUESE FONMIN SOARES HAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO GOI THAT PORTUGAL FAVORS INTERGRATION OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR INTO INDONESIA. HE SAID SOARES AND GOI FONMIN MALIK WILL MEET AT UN IN NEW YORK ON SEPT 22 TO DISCUSS TIMOR QUESTION.

2. MURTOPO REPORTEDLY SAID PEOPLE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR ARE CULTURALLY TIED TO INDONESIA, AND THAT THE POLITICAL PARTY WHICH ADVOCATES INTEGRATION INTO INDONESIA IS SUPPORTED BY MAJORITY THERE. THIS GROUP HAS APPEALED FOR
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INDONESIA'S ASSISTANCE IN RESTORING PORTUGUESE TIMOR TO

INDONESIA, HE SAID. MURTOPO ADDED THAT INDONESIA'S POLICY TOWARD PORTUGUESE TIMOR, IN ANY CASE, IS "NON INTERFERENCE" AND THAT GOI HAS NO DESIRE FOR TERRITORIAL EXPANSION; BUT IF PEOPLE THERE DECIDE TO JOIN INDONESIA, GOI WILL NOT RULE OUT THIS POSSIBILITY.

3. SEVERAL JAKARTA PAPERS HAVE ALSO CARRIED WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM LISBON THAT PORTUGUESE FONMIN SOARES SAID LAST WEEKEND AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA ARE INTERESTED IN HOLDING CONSULTATIONS WITH PORTUGAL ON THE FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR. GOI FOREIGN DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO COMMENT SEPT 16 WHEN ASKED ABOUT THESE REPORTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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4. COMMENT: MURTOPO AND HIS POWERFUL BOSS AT BAKIN, GENERAL YOGA SUGOMO, PARE LEADING ADVOCATE FUA. THEY FEAR CHINESE COMMUNITY IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR WOULD BE FOCUS FOR PRC SUBVERSION, PERHAPS VIA CHINESE IN MACAO. JUDGING FROM STATEMENTS BY FONMIN MALIK, WHO APPEARS TO FAVOR INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGUESE TIMOR, GOI POLICY ON QUESTION MAY STILL BE FLUID, ALTHOUGH PRO-MERGER BAKIN/MILITARY FORCES SEEM TO REPRESENT DOMINANT VIEW (REF B).

5. CONTRARY TO MURTOPO'S STATEMENT REPORTED ABOVE THAT PRO-MERGER PARTY IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR (TIMORESE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION OR APODETI) COMMANDS SUPPORT OF MAJORITY, THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT IT IS WEAKEST OF THE THREE PARTIES THERE. PRO-MERGER FORCES IN GOI THEREFORE HOPE MERGER CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WITH LISBON, AND THAT PLEBISCITE PREVIOUSLY PROMISED FOR MARCH 1975 CAN BE AVOIDED (REF A). FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND ON GOI VIEWS TOWARD TIMOR QUESTION SEE JAKARTA A-159 POUCH SPET. 12.

6. ACTION REQUESTED LISBON: WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY LISBON CAN OBTAIN ON GOP POLICY TOWARD PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND REPORTED GOI-GOP CONTACTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFICALLY, WE WONDER: IS GOP DISPOSED TO NEGOTIATE A TRANSFER OF COLONY TO INDONESIA, OR WILL IT PERSIST IN PLANS FOR MARCH 1975 PLEBISCITE IN WHICH INDEPENDENCE, PRO-PORTUGAL, AND MERGER PARTIES WOULD COMPETE? IS THERE SUPPORT IN GOP FOR PRO-INDEPENDENCE, MARXIST ORIENTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AS SOME GOI OFFICIALS FEAR?

7. ACTION REQUESTED CANBERRA: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY

INFORMATION EMBASSY CANBERRA MAY HAVE ON POSSIBLE GOA
CONTACTS WITH PORTUGAL ON TIMOR IN LIGHT OF WHITLAM'S
STATEMENT TO SUHARTO IN EARLY SEPTEBER THAT A) GOA WILL
INFORM GOP THAT IT HAS NO OBJECTION TO TRANSFER OF TIMOR
TO INDONESIA AND B) AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN LISBON WILL
ASSIST GOI -- WHICH HAS NO REPRESENTATIVE THERE -- IN
DEALINGS WITH GOP (REC C, PARA 2).
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